Releasing of Bank Defaulters List

†2057. DR. D. MASTHAN:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Chennai edition of "Indian Express" dated 17th February under caption Jalan agrees with CVC on banks releasing defaulters list;

(b) if so, whether Government will direct financial banks to publish the list of defaulters relating to non-performing assets after the Governor, Reserve Bank of India has expressed his opinion; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had received a request from the Central Vigilance Commission to arrange to publicize the names of wilful defaulting borrowers of banks and financial institutions (FIs). Under the banking laws in force, disclosure of names of borrowers of banks and financial institutions is not permissible except under the circumstances as provided under various statutes. However, there is no prohibition on disclosure of the names of defaulters against whom suits have been filed. RBI publishes as on 31st March every year a list of borrowers (with outstanding aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above) against whom suits have been filed by banks and FIs for recovery of their dues. A list of suit filed accounts as on 31.3.1999 has been placed in the Parliament Library and is also available on RBI website http.// www rbi. org. in.

Assistance to Himachal Pradesh

2058. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had provided an advance of Rs. 100 crore and Assistance of Rs. 200 crore to Himachal Pradesh to enable the State Government to tide over the current financial problems;

(b) if so, the details of circumstances which necessitated such an advance and assistance;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.